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a substrate comprising Li;
a sealing layer comprising NiNb; and
a magnetic layer,
wherein the sealing layer has a thickness of about 450Å or less and substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.

22. (New) A method of manufacturing a longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium, the method comprising:

sputter depositing a sealing layer comprising NiNb on a substrate comprising Li; and
sputter depositing a magnetic layer on the sealing layer;
wherein the sealing layer has a thickness of about 450Å or less and substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.

23. (New) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising,
in this order:

a substrate comprising Li;
a sealing means having a thickness of about 450Å or less for substantially preventing migration of Li from the substrate; and
a magnetic layer.

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections under 35 USC 112,
second paragraph.